



**St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter**  
**Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**



### **THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT**

*As we begin the season of Advent, we enter a special time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness of life and prepare our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love. Each candle on the Advent wreath reminds us of God's light breaking into the darkness and calls us to share that light with others through kindness, prayer, and faith-filled actions.*

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*The pictures below are from some of the different classes around the school. The classroom Advent displays will be the focus of prayer throughout the rest of the term. The first two pictures are from our main entrance.*

*Some of the Advent displays were inspired by the recent retreat days that took place in Years 1, 2 and 3.*



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## OUR SCHOOL CHAPEL

***A reminder to you that our chapel will be open every Thursday morning from 8.30 to 8.50 if you and / or your child would like to spend some time in quiet prayer and reflection before the start of the school day. Just enter via the prayer garden entrance near the Year 3 classes' corridor.***







## CATHOLIC LIFE

### CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you so much for your response to our Christmas Appeal. Items are coming in daily and our School Chaplaincy Team representatives have been busy getting things sorted from the different classes. There is still time to contribute so please see the letter below for information on what you can do to support this year's appeal.

As you can see, we have already collected many items but if you can add to this, it would make a huge difference to families in our area.

**The deadline is this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the letter below.**



### ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

A reminder that representatives from our Years 5 and 6 Chaplaincy Team and Mini Vinnies will be attending a special midday mass at Holy Rood Church this Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Mass will be followed by a selection of carols and readings performed by the children. You are very welcome to attend.



## **PRAYER LIFE**

### **FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**

Wednesday 3 December: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Thursday 4 December: Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday 6 December: Saint Nicholas, Bishop

### **Focus for Prayer Around the School**

Our Early Years children will see the Advent wreath and say simple prayers

Years 1 and 2 will make Advent promises; story of St Francis Xavier

Years 3 to 6 Reflections on hope & waiting; Advent prayer journals; class liturgy for new Church year

### **VOICE OF THE CHILDREN**

Over the course of the advent season, the children will be participating in Prayer and Liturgy around their advent wreaths. For the next few weeks, we want to share thoughts from the children about what this season means to them.

Some of our Year 6 children were invited to offer reflections on a painting of the Annunciation by Italian Baroque painter Guido Reni.

*"It shows that Mary knew a big change was going to happen in her life"*

*"Change can mean we get nervous, but it is okay to feel this"*

*"Mary was willing to do what God asked".*

*"Mary probably felt uncertain about what the future would hold"*

### **PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2025/11/Newsletter-01.12.2025.pdf>

### **PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2025/11/20251130-NEWSLETTER-2025.pdf>



## LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Purple for the season of Advent

### Lectionary Cycle

The new liturgical year and Sunday Cycle A began on the First Sunday of Advent, 30 November.

## JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



*Let us Pray.*

*We thank you, for the many gifts you give us. As the Holy Door is opened for this Year of Jubilee, guide us through it to encounter you and share our time, gifts and talents with those most in need.*



## LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



### TAKE NOTICE

Over the next 7 days, count your blessings. Spend a special time each day (maybe as you pray) to think of all the things that you can be grateful for in your life and how that makes you feel.



## Mark Ten Mission

Our Mark Ten Mission reflection looks at St. John the Baptist's call for us to prepare for Jesus at Advent.

**THE MISSION**

PREPARE THE WAY

**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST INVITES YOU TO PREPARE A WAY FOR JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE. PRAYERFULLY THINK: ARE THERE TIMES IN YOUR DAY YOU CAN TURN TO HIM? ARE THERE DISTRACTIONS OR THINGS YOU WASTE TIME ON WHICH DON'T HELP YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS? USE THE PRAYER SECTION ON YOUR MISSION FILE TO RECORD YOUR RESPONSE.**

THE MARK 10 MISSION





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THE  
**MARK 10**  
MISSION

## MISSION FILE

### GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." ' Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

### WORD OF THE WEEK

## PEACE

### PRAYER

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT? ARE THERE THINGS YOU CAN DO AND THINGS YOU CAN REMOVE?

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AS YOU SLOWLY READ OR LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL, WHICH LINE STANDS OUT? HIGHLIGHT IT IN THE TEXT. PRAY ABOUT HOW GOD MAY BE SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH THIS LINE?

### WONDER QUESTIONS

WHY DID JOHN LEAVE HIS HOME, HEAD OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS AND MAKE IT HIS MISSION TO TELL PEOPLE WHO WAS TO COME?

WHY DID SO MANY PEOPLE COME OUT TO SEE JOHN?

### COLOUR



### MISSION

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST INVITES YOU TO PREPARE A WAY FOR JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE. PRAYERFULLY THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A STRAIGHT PATH FOR JESUS TO COME. ARE THERE TIMES IN YOUR DAY YOU CAN TURN TO HIM? ARE THERE DISTRACTIONS OR THINGS YOU WASTE TIME ON WHICH DON'T HELP YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS? USE THE PRAYER SECTION TO RECORD YOUR RESPONSE.



Dear Families,

We are delighted to announce that our School Chaplaincy Team and Mini Vinnie group have, for the third consecutive year, teamed up with South-West Herts Partnership Family Support Service.

For the last two years, St. Anthony's School community gave with extraordinary generosity and helped to make a huge difference to families being supported by South-West Herts Partnership.

Knowing the difference we have been able to make, our Chaplaincy Team and Mini Vinnie group, want to help again.

We are asking our families for a donation to help families' health and wellbeing this Christmas.

As with previous years, we have separated donations into different categories and allocated a category to different parts of the school.

Please could we ask that all items are new.

If you would like to be involved, could children from the following Key Stages or Year Groups please bring the following:

EYFS

New books (board books, picture books, early readers)

Winter warmers (children's hats, gloves, scarves, socks)

KEY STAGE 1 Years 1 and 2

New books (picture books, early chapter books)

Sports equipment & clothing (small sizes - balls, skipping ropes, sports socks)

LOWER KEYS STAGE 2 YEARS 3 AND 4

Sports equipment & clothing (medium sizes - footballs, frisbees, sportswear)

Toiletry gift sets (children's sets - bubble bath, body wash)

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 YEARS 5 AND 6

Toiletry gift sets (for older children and adults)

Winter warmers (adult sizes - hats, gloves, scarves, thermals, socks)

Guidance from South West Herts Partnership is as follows:

All gifts are new and unopened.

All gifts remain unwrapped so that they can be wrapped by the SWHP team.

All gifts are donated by the 5th December 2025 at the latest.

If you would like to get involved, please send your gift in with your child to give to your child's teacher. A member of the Chaplaincy Team will go to each class every day to collect any donations.



We hope we can make a difference and thank you.

The children and staff of St. Anthony's School Chaplaincy Team and Mini Vinnies.